AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1 and 6; please cancel claims 2 and 9-11.

C1

Claim 1 (currently amended) A composition comprising flaky α-alumina particles having an average major diameter of 0.5 to 25 μm, an aspect ratio, expressed by particle major diameter / average thickness, of ~~greater than 50~~ 55 to 2000, ~~and~~ produced using a source material that will introduce phosphate ions, and a phosphoric compound present in an amount of about 0.2% to about 5.0% by weight, relative to the weight of the alumina particles, when the weight of the phosphoric compound used is converted to the weight of P_2O_5.

Claim 2 (cancelled).

Claim 3 (previously presented) The flaky α-alumina particles according to claim 1, wherein an isoelectric point of the alumina particles at which zeta-potential is 0 is at a pH of 4 to 8.

Claim 4 (withdrawn) A method for producing the flake-like α-alumina particles according to claim 1, comprising a hydrothermal synthesis process of an aqueous slurry in which the aqueous slurry comprises an alumina hydrate and/or an alumina gel, having a particle size regulated to not more than 2 μm in average particle size and not more than 5.0 μm in maximum particle size, as a raw starting material, and phosphoric

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acid ions are added in an amount of 1.0×10^{-3} to 1.0×10^{-1} mol per mol of the alumina hydrate and/or alumina gel as the starting raw material.

C 1 Cont

Claim 5 (withdrawn) The method according to claim 4, in which besides the alumina hydrate and/or alumina gel as the starting raw material and the phosphoric acid ions, α-alumina particles having an particle major diameter of less than 1 μm and a specific surface area of at least 5 m^2/g are further added in an amount of 1.0×10^{-6} to 5.0×10^{-3} mol per mol of the alumina hydrate and/or alumina gel as the starting raw material for the hydrothermal synthesis process, so that the resultant flake-like α-alumina particles are controlled in particle major diameter.

Claim 6 (currently amended) A cosmetic [containing] comprising flaky α-alumina particles having an average major diameter of 0.5 to 25 μm and an aspect ratio, expressed by particle major diameter / average thickness, of ~~greater than 50~~ 55 to 2000, and a phosphoric compound present in an amount of about 0.2% to about 5.0% by weight, relative to the weight of the alumina particles, when the weight of the phosphoric compound used is converted to the weight of P_2O_5.

Claim 7 (previously presented) The cosmetic according to claim 6, in which the flaky α-alumina particles have an average thickness of 0.01 to 0.1 μm and an average particle diameter, in terms of half the sum of the particle diameter in major axis and particle diameter in minor axis, of 0.5 to 15 μm.

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C 1 Cont'd

Claim 8 (previously presented) The cosmetic according to claim 6, wherein the flaky α-alumina particles are present in an amount of 1% to 90% by weight, based on the weight of the cosmetic.

Claims 9-11 (cancelled).

Claim 12 (previously presented) The cosmetic according to claim 6, wherein an isoelectric point of the alumina particles at which zeta-potential is 0 is at a pH of 4 to 8.

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